



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Southern District of Indiana*

*10 West Market Street  
Suite 2100  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

*(317)226-6333  
TDD (317)226-5438*

*FAX NUMBERS:  
Criminal (317)226-6125  
Administration (317)226-5176  
Civil (317)226-5027  
FLU (317) 226-6133  
OCDETF (317)226-5953*

**July 9, 2003**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

**SUSAN W. BROOKS**

United States Attorney

(317) 226-6333

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**TWO CHARGED IN COUNTERFEIT CHECKS  
AND IDENTITY THEFT CONSPIRACIES**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that NIGEL MCCOWAN, 28, of Richmond, Indiana, and SIRIMAN “MOUSSA” COULIBABLY, 30, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania were indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for conspiracy, manufacturing and uttering counterfeit checks of businesses, and using a means of identification of another person without authority to obtain items of value in violation of a state felony statute, following an investigation by the Secret Service, Hamilton County Sheriff, and Marion County Sheriff working in conjunction with the Postal Inspection Financial Crimes Task Force.

-More-

COULIBALY et al.-2

The indictment alleges that COULIBALY and MCCOWAN conspired with other persons to make counterfeit checks of business entities in the Indianapolis area, recruiting other persons to cash the counterfeit checks at various banks in the Indianapolis area, and then split the proceeds among the conspirators. The indictment also alleges that COULIBALY and MCCOWAN obtained and used a means of identification (such as a social security number or date of birth) to obtain credit to purchase a Range Rover and credit cards to purchase other items.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Donna R. Eide, who is prosecuting the case for the government, MCCOWAN and COULIBLAY face a maximum possible prison sentence of 15 years on the identity theft charges, 10 years on the counterfeit check charges, and 5 years on the conspiracy charges and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 per count. An initial hearing will be scheduled for before a U.S. Magistrate Judge. Both defendants are being held without bond.

**The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.**

#####